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# FEM Study of Induction Machines Suffering from Rotor Electrical Faults Using Stray Flux Signature Analysis

P.A. Panagiotou, I. Arvanitakis, N. Lophitis, and K.N. Gyftakis

**Abstract**—The wide range of applications using induction machines has been enhanced with the rapid evolution of condition monitoring and variable speed drives. The latter two, along with their constantly growing demands, have raised the necessity of new approaches and techniques in fault diagnostics. A reliable solution to this matter, has proven to be the monitoring of stray magnetic flux. Accounted for in different locations on the machine's peripheral area and with different measurement techniques, the stray flux provides valuable information for fault detection and identification. This paper aims to apply one of these diagnostic strategies and the related measurement of stray flux using FEM, to evaluate its performance and diagnostic capability on two machines of different size and power rating and conclude on the quantitative effectiveness of such strategies.

**Keywords**—stray flux, condition monitoring, induction machines, flux sensors.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Three-phase induction motors are widely used in industrial and mobility applications. For both cases, heavy duty tasks with variable load conditions oblige the reliable monitoring of these motors, especially after long-term use [1]. Numerous approaches of condition monitoring techniques are found in the literature for fault detection and diagnostics in induction machines, namely: signal based methods, model based, circuit theory based and simulation based methods (*Finite Element Methods* - FEM) [1], [2]. Amongst them, signal-based Motor Current, or Voltage, Signature Analysis (MCSA and MVSA) -usually combined with FEM- are the most commonly known and, so far, mainly applied in the field. A representative background on these techniques is given in [1], [2] and [3].

Although MCSA has rendered valuable results for various types of faults, authors have often reported drawbacks of this method [3]–[8]. Hence, a trend for condition monitoring of induction machines using analysis of stray flux signals began in the late '80s [4]. This was followed by works of researchers who contributed to understanding and modelling the mechanisms that allow potent diagnostics based on stray flux measurements [6], [7]. Based upon the fact that no machine is ideal

or perfectly manufactured and balanced, and -consequently- quantities of magnetic flux will stray in paths without being taken advantage of, this technique proposes capturing amounts of stray flux radiated on the external machine parts, like the machine's end windings or outside its frame [7], [8]. Due to the induction phenomena from the stator to the rotor and vice-versa, these portions of radiated stray flux are considered to enclose consolidated information about both stator and rotor quantities, in terms of time and space dependent harmonics [8]. These harmonics can be detected and studied through signals of voltage induced on search coils, located as close as possible to the end parts of the machine's periphery (stator end windings and rotor end rings). The analytical models for these harmonics have been formulated and provided not only theoretically, but have also been verified experimentally for machines under healthy and faulty operation [5], [7]–[9]. A simplified spectrum method for short circuits detection is given in [5], by inspection of signatures in the spectrum of induced voltage on a search coil coaxially placed with the shaft. The same authors successfully use this technique in [9] for different induction machines under variable load conditions to detect broken rotor bars, proving the method's increased sensitivity and reliability compared to conventional MCSA when the diagnostics deal with these types of motors.

Additionally, in [10] and [11] a multivariable monitoring method is introduced where the authors use vibration, currents and stray flux signal analysis to ensure diagnostic robustness and reliability for rotor defects under different load conditions. In [12], the potential of this alternative diagnostic method is again verified experimentally for inter-turn short circuits, while the same authors in [13] use a time-frequency representation to prove the method efficient for rotor fault detection after supply disconnection. Also, an intensive analysis of stray flux is given in [14] for monitoring an induction machine operating under gearbox coupling within an electromechanical system, where also the effects of the gearbox frequencies on torque oscillations are studied.

Several works have approached this matter with invasive monitoring, to capture the stray flux induced voltage using an internal search coil aiming to detect stator winding [15] or rotor fault conditions [16]. However, although the results are encouraging, invasive methods demand disassembling the rotor from the stator and recoiling the sensor along the stator core length. Furthermore, successful detection of dynamic and mixed eccentricity faults has been reported by stray flux signature analysis using Hall probes [17]. A Hall-effect sensor is also used in [18] for invasive monitoring of broken rotor bars.

An important contribution to the foundations of stray flux

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analysis is also provided in [19] and [20] for diagnosing rotor faults and stator faults respectively. The main added value of the latter two works does not only consist in the successful diagnostic procedure, but also in the examination of how the stray flux measurements are affected with regards to the flux sensor location and alignment on the machine periphery. This leads the authors to assess and categorize the stray flux signatures according to their origin from axial or radial attenuated stray flux.

In addition, in [21] the authors developed a stray flux measurement system using a “C” magnetic core flux sensor for assessing the measurements in three different locations outside the machine frame. Continuing this work concept-wise, in [22], they enhanced this system for detection of stator winding short circuits, while in [23] a comparison between axial and radial stray flux is addressed by means of statistical processing for the integer harmonics.

Thorough research on external magnetic field analysis, has also been applied for stray flux on the machine end-regions using 3-D FEM and stray losses analysis [24], a growler and magnetic viewing films for disassembled rotors [25] and Hall probes for air-gap eccentricity [26]. In [27], a covariance analysis is also delivered for the space and time harmonics of the stray flux, while [28] provides an insight to harmonics discrimination for both stator and rotor faults validated experimentally.

Following ongoing research developments of the last decade, sophisticated signal processing techniques like the Short-Time Fourier Transform and Wavelet Decomposition have been proposed for diagnosis through the stray flux fields during the start-up transient [29], [30]. These approaches are valuable for two reasons: first and foremost, they hold the potential for fast diagnosis during the machine start-up with the use of fault indicators, and, on the other hand, they also examine the differences of the method and the signatures’ footprints with regards to the flux sensor position and the signals captured in each position. The latter is the most important, since the optimal number of sensors and their position or geometry for accurate and reliable signal acquisition is still being investigated. Innovative approaches of intelligent techniques for predictive vector control using magnetic field analysis under faulty operation have been attempted as well, for developing fault-tolerant control models [31]. Another study of rotor faults detection with spectrum-based analysis of radial flux is given in [32] using a Fluxgate sensor, the position of which is examined later in [33] under different load torque profiles. Finally, one of the latest reviews on how stray flux based monitoring techniques are applied for cases of various types of faults, is given in [34].

In this paper, two different induction motors are investigated under stray flux signature analysis (SFSA). For this work, an industrial 1.1 MW (1475 hp) and a small 4 kW (5.4 hp) induction motor, are simulated with 2-D FEM and are analyzed under healthy condition, as well as under the broken bar faults. The stray flux signals are captured with a search coil placed externally from the machine’s housing. The study aims to recognize the fault signatures and their behavioral differences in the frequency spectrum for a comparison between small and large machines under healthy operation and the broken bar condition.

The paper is structured as follows: in Section II, a brief presentation of the theoretical background for existing stray

flux methods is provided. Also, the difference between measurement of axial and radial stray flux and existing measurement acquisition techniques are outlined. In Section III the FEM models are described, followed by the results from FEM simulations presented and explained in Section IV for the two induction motors under investigation, leading to the conclusions in Section V.

## II. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

### A. Stray Flux Methods & Stray Flux Signature Analysis

Since every phenomenon that occurs in either the stator or the rotor is induced and filtered from one to another and so on, the stray flux is a signal in whose signatures, fault asymmetries will be reflected [5], [7]–[9]. In fact, considering that the stators construction and the surrounding housing resemble a magnetic shield effect, the stator quantities signatures are predominantly present [10]. However, the magnetic fields that are present in an induction machine are three: the main magnetizing field flowing from the stator teeth to the rotor teeth through the air-gap, the stator leakage field due to stator slot openings, stator frame and stator yoke and -finally- the rotor leakage field due to rotor slot openings, rotor yoke and rotor shaft [6], [21]–[23]. Hence, the stator quantities’ signatures prevail, without though disallowing the presence of frequency components sensitive to asymmetries induced by the rotor. Such frequency components are detected around the frequencies  $f_s$ ,  $3f_s$ ,  $5f_s$ , as well as the low frequency component  $f_s - f_r$ , with  $f_s$  being the fundamental supply frequency,  $f_r$  the rotor rotational frequency and  $s$  the motor slip [9], [13], [19]. The formula for the stator-related frequencies under the broken bar fault is given by the following equation [3]:

$$f_{bb} = \left[ \frac{k}{p}(1-s) \pm s \right] f_s, \quad (1)$$

where  $p$  is the number of pole pairs and  $k/p \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Also, due to the aforementioned rotating leakage fields’ distribution and pathways, the method of flux sensing accounts for different type of flux with regards to the position of the sensor, being: pure axial, pure radial or mixed radial/axial portions of stray flux. The last case would be the most convenient for a diagnostic process, but is not always possible to achieve, as will be explained in next Subsection II-B.

Being a quantity sensitive to noise though, the stray flux is mainly analyzed and studied in the low frequencies range [3], [5]–[11], [18]–[28]. This is not only because the low frequency components are easier to detect in SFSA, but also because the induced voltage on the sensor accrues from derivation of the actual flux and the derivation can affect the amplitudes of the high frequency components [10], [23], [27].

### B. Stray Flux Measurements

Different measurement techniques have been applied by researchers who undertake investigation of diagnostics through stray flux monitoring. Since the stray flux attenuated on the vicinity of the motor is a quantity with complex 3-D geometrical pattern not easily obtained and modelled, the idea behind the coil measurement attempts and trials so far is to

embrace as much portion of flux as possible, in order to observe the behavior of harmonics and evaluate what changes these harmonics undergo in the spectra [22], [23], [25]–[28]. Thus, different types of sensors and various uses of those have been presented so far. The instruments dealt with in most of the works, are flux sensors consisting of air coils with several hundreds of turns. That is because they provide a low-cost solution with relatively easy application of the instrument around the motor. These can be placed in two positions: either frontal or lateral [29], [30].

In the frontal position, it will be either a search coil placed coaxially with the machine shaft -a part of the machinery which is not easily accessible when applying condition monitoring on the field- or a number of sensors placed in quartiles symmetrically from the machine shaft. This way, the induced voltage withholds information regarding axial stray flux only [19], [28]. This kind of measurement is preferred to be taken on the machine end parts (stator end-winding and rotor end rings), and therefore an alternative position for the sensor is the symmetrical one, meaning the machine fan side. In that case though, according to the application, appropriate signal filtering must be applied because the fan and cooling systems on this part of the machine are known to be sources of noise, which becomes excessive in industrial environments where series of motors are coupled or next to each other, i.e. production lines or power plants.

Another type of measurement that is encountered in the literature, is the measurement of pure radial flux. This can be done with search coils placed laterally and in parallel with the plane defined by the machine's traverse cross-section plane, and it can be either done close to the end parts or not [19], [20], [28]–[30], [34]. What is suggested for the instrument is that its length and diameter should be much less than the total machine height in order to capture satisfying amount of flux lines [8], [18], [21]–[23]. This is the type of stray flux condition handled in this paper.

Finally, in the lateral position, if the sensing coil is placed in a way that its girth lies on the machine precinct side and coincides with it, the measurement of mixed axial and radial flux is derived by the instrument [10], [12], [13], [22]. This is the most preferable case, since more signatures are captured to be studied, but the frequency components arising in the spectra have yet not been fully discriminated and categorized, apart from the low frequency range for rotor inherent asymmetries or a few cases of broken bars, as well as high order-harmonics for PSH and source supply harmonics. However, 2-D FEM cannot account for this type of stray flux, because it strictly requires a 3-D geometry.

### III. FEM MODELS

For the purpose of the analysis, two different induction machines were modelled and simulated with “MagNet” FEM software, provided by Infolytica, under rotary load driven motion -accounting for the machine's motion equation and moment of inertia- from the start-up transient until the steady state. The FEM models take into account the exact geometrical and materials characteristics as provided from the manufacturers. The analysis is held under rated load condition for both motors and the load coupled directly to the shaft, accounting for them being in healthy operation and operations with their rotors suffering from one broken bar. In Fig. 1 the

TABLE I  
Characteristics of the motors under study

Characteristics	Motor # 1	Motor # 2
Supply Frequency $f_s$	50 Hz	50 Hz
Stator Connection	$\Delta$	$\lambda$
Output Power	3 kW	1.1 MW
Rated Voltage	270 V	4.7 V
Rated Current	8.6 A	170 A
Number of Poles	4	6
Rated Speed	1416 rpm	990 rpm
Number of stator slots	36	54
Number of rotor bars	32	70

two models are shown along with the corresponding magnetic field distribution (magnetic flux density  $B$  [Tesla]), when the motors are in healthy mode.

Fig. 1(a) depicts the first motor under examination, which is a small laboratory, or small scale mobility, oriented induction motor. Operating at 50 Hz, with nominal characteristics 400 V, 4 kW, this  $\Delta$ -connected, 4-pole three-phase induction motor encloses a 32 bar aluminum die cast rotor inside a stator designed with 36 stator slots and a single layer 49-turn per slot winding.

Secondly, an industrial Y-connected, 6-pole, 6.6 kV, 1.1 MW, 50 Hz cage induction motor has been studied, with the rotor cage fabricated from 70 copper bars and the stator of 54 slots with a 12-turn per slot double layer 1 to 9 pitched winding. This motor is depicted in Fig. 1(b). A brief description of the modelled motors, is given in Table I.

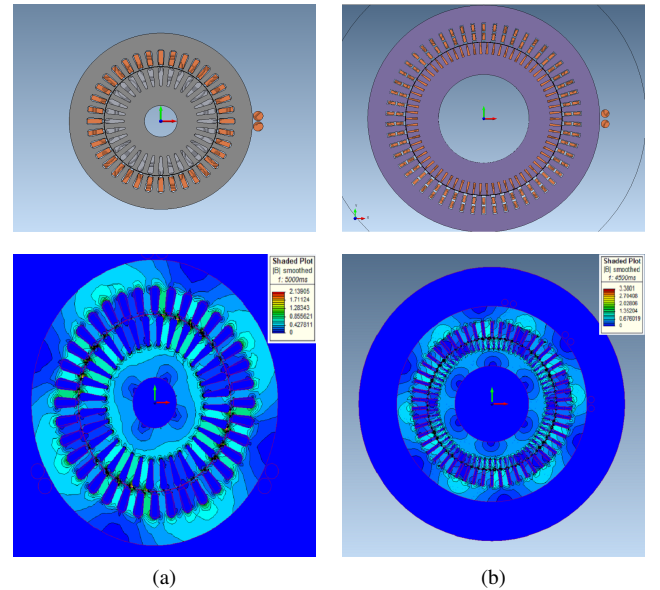


Fig. 1: (a) Top: healthy 4kW machine, Bottom: corresponding magnetic field and (b) Top: healthy 1.1MW machine, Bottom: corresponding magnetic field

To aid the reader, the two distinct FEM cases of the 4 kW and 1.1 MW motors are labeled and referred to as “Motor #1” and “Motor #2” respectively. The motors under the broken bar fault and the corresponding magnetic flux density distribution are shown in Fig. 2.

The flux sensor is a stranded 100-turn search coil, with

the input and output wound on a point of the machine's periphery close to the stator frame.

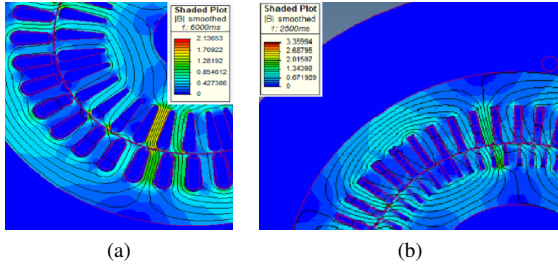


Fig. 2: Magnetic Field Distributions for (a) Motor # 1 and (b) Motor # 2 under one broken rotor bar fault

For reliable signal representation in both time and frequency domain and improved spectral resolution, the total signal acquisition time with FEM was  $\approx 7.5$  seconds for each motor with a sampling frequency of  $10\text{ kHz}$ . However, for the application of the FFT only the steady state of the signals is used, which is  $\approx 6.5$  seconds for Motor #1 and  $\approx 4.5$  seconds for Motor #2. The signals are downsampled with a factor of 2 and prefiltered for the FFT with a low pass filter at the cut-off frequency of  $2\text{ kHz}$ .

#### IV. FEM RESULTS ON STRAY FLUX

For the spectral analysis, the FFT -over a Hann window to avoid spectral leakage- is applied to the signal of the voltage induced on the search coil. Focus will be given to the stray flux broken rotor bar fault sidebands given from (1), hence sidebands around the frequencies  $f_s - f_r$ ,  $f_s$ ,  $3f_s$  and  $5f_s$ , where  $f_s$  the supply frequency ( $\text{Hz}$ ).

Fig. 3 depicts the harmonic content of the stray flux in Motor #1, under healthy (blue) and faulty operation with one broken bar (red) and the spectrum has been normalized to 0 dB with respect to the fundamental harmonic. The presented sideband signatures are the ones around the  $f_s - f_r$  harmonic (Fig. 3(a)), around the fundamental  $50\text{ Hz}$  harmonic (Fig. 3(b)), then around the 3rd stray flux harmonic (Fig. 3(c)) and, finally, around the  $5^{\text{th}}$  harmonic (Fig. 3(d)). The central main frequencies are pointed in each spectrum with a red arrow, while the sidebands under examination with black ones.

In Fig. 4, the spectra of stray flux is given for the industrial  $1.1\text{ MW}$  induction motor (Motor #2) at the same frequency areas as for Motor #1. In Table II, a comparison between the amplitudes of the radial stray flux harmonics is given for Motor #1 under healthy and faulty condition. Respectively, Table III provides the same comparison for the harmonics of Motor #2. The rotor mechanical frequency  $f_r$  is calculated for each motor by the formula:

$$f_r = \frac{(1-s)f_s}{p}, \quad (2)$$

where:  $s$  is the slip,  $p$  the pole pairs and  $f_s$  the supply frequency. In the last column of each table, the amplitude difference of each fault sideband signature from its central harmonic (pointed with red arrow in the spectra) is given.

Starting with the frequency of the  $f_s - f_r$  for Motor #1 and comparing the amplitudes between healthy and faulty

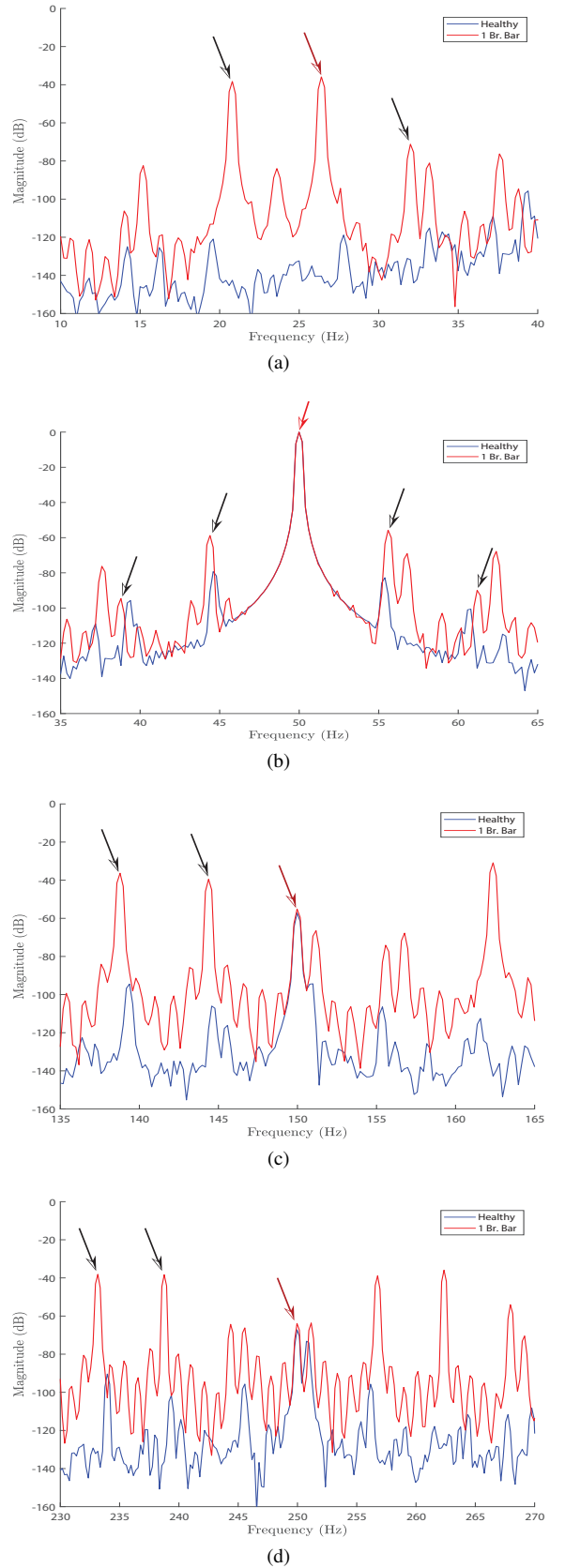
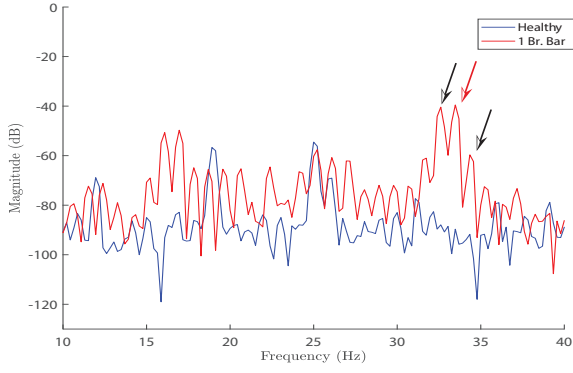
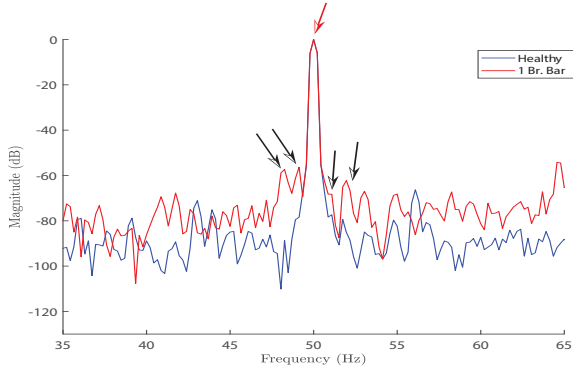


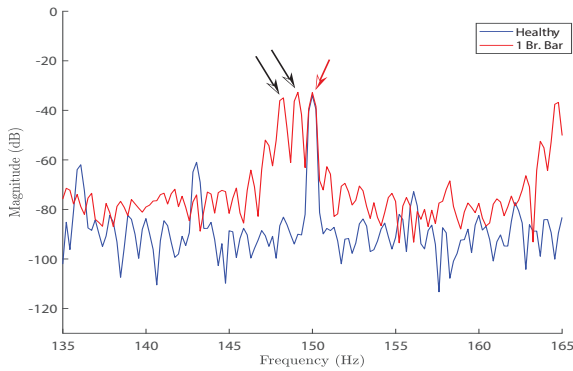
Fig. 3: FFT Spectra of the stray flux under healthy operation (blue) and one broken bar (red) for the  $4\text{ kW}$  motor at the frequency area of : (a)  $f_s - f_r$ , (b)  $f_s$ , (c)  $3f_s$  and (d)  $5f_s$ .



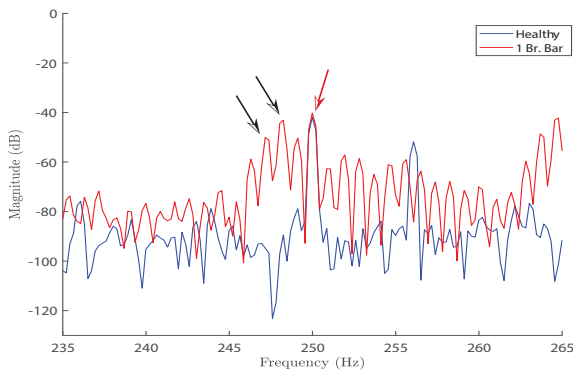
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Fig. 4: FFT Spectra of the stray flux under healthy operation (blue) and one broken bar (red) for the 1.1MW motor at the frequency area of : (a)  $f_s - f_r$ , (b)  $f_s$ , (c)  $3f_s$  and (d)  $5f_s$ .

TABLE II  
Radial Flux Frequency Components & Amplitudes for Motor #1 under healthy Operation and 1 Broken Rotor Bar

Motor #1 - 5.4 hp, $\Delta$ Connected, 50 Hz, $p = 2$					
Frequency Component	Healthy ( $s \approx 0.0534$ )		1 Broken Bar ( $s \approx 0.0562$ )		Difference dB
	Hz	dB	Hz	dB	
$f_s - f_r$	26.33	-140.4	26.42	-35.98	-
$f_s - f_r - 2sf_s$	20.99	-142.5	20.74	-38.29	<b>2.31</b>
$f_s - f_r + 2sf_s$	31.68	-136.7	32.1	-71.21	<b>35.23</b>
$f_s - 2sf_s$	44.66	-79.32	44.38	-58.75	-
$f_s - 4sf_s$	39.32	-95.74	38.76	-94.59	-
$f_s + 2sf_s$	55.34	-82.74	55.62	-55.73	-
$f_s + 4sf_s$	60.68	-100.6	61.24	-89.96	-
$3f_s$	150	-57.22	150	-55.12	-
$3f_s - 2sf_s$	144.6	-106	144.38	-39.51	<b>15.61</b>
$3f_s - 4sf_s$	139.32	-94.48	138.76	-36.31	<b>18.81</b>
$5f_s$	250	-67.18	250	-63.87	-
$5f_s - 4sf_s$	239.32	-101.6	238.76	-38.33	<b>25.54</b>
$5f_s - 6sf_s$	233.98	-90.41	233.14	-38.12	<b>25.75</b>

TABLE III  
Radial Flux Frequency Components & Amplitudes for Motor #2 under healthy Operation and 1 Broken Rotor Bar

Motor #2 - 1475 hp, $\Delta$ Connected, 50 Hz, $p = 3$					
Frequency Component	Healthy ( $s \approx 0.0091$ )		1 Broken Bar ( $s \approx 0.0092$ )		Difference dB
	Hz	dB	Hz	dB	
$f_s - f_r$	33.48	-89.68	33.48	-39.52	-
$f_s - f_r - 2sf_s$	32.61	-87.93	32.61	-40.4	<b>0.88</b>
$f_s - f_r + 2sf_s$	34.35	-91.75	34.35	-59.67	<b>20.15</b>
$f_s - 2sf_s$	49.13	-78.44	49.1335	-56.37	-
$f_s - 4sf_s$	48.26	-88.69	48.26	-57.34	-
$f_s + 2sf_s$	50.87	-78.36	51.08	-68.25	-
$f_s + 4sf_s$	51.74	-79.37	51.95	-62.25	-
$3f_s$	150	-33.98	150	-32.83	-
$3f_s - 2sf_s$	149.1	-89.99	149.1	-32.71	<b>0.12</b>
$3f_s - 4sf_s$	148.3	-83.11	148.3	-34.97	<b>2.14</b>
$5f_s$	250	-41.914	250	-40.24	-
$5f_s - 4sf_s$	248.3	-89.46	248.35	-43.12	<b>2.88</b>
$5f_s - 6sf_s$	247.2	-94.78	247.2	-50.11	<b>9.87</b>

operation, it is observed from Table II and Fig. 3(a) that the amplitude of the central frequency exhibits an increase of 104.42 dB, while the left and right sideband fault related signatures present an increase of 104.21 dB and 65.49 dB respectively. As for Motor #2 under the broken bar fault, the central  $f_s - f_r$  frequency increases 50.16 dB, the  $-2sf_s$  sideband component 47.53 dB and the right  $+2sf_s$  signature increases 32.8 dB with respect to the healthy model (Fig. 4(a) and Table III). Furthermore, the amplitude difference of the left and right sidebands from the central frequency of Motor #1 have the values of 2.31 dB and 35.23 dB respectively, which clearly shows that the  $-2sf_s$  sideband undergoes the largest difference and its peak reaches close to the amplitude of the fundamental, as expected. Similarly, Motor #2 presents the same behavior, having the  $-2sf_s$  signature close to the central frequency with an amplitude difference of 0.88 dB, and the  $+2sf_s$  quite low, showing a difference of 20.15 dB from the  $f_s - f_r$  component.

Regarding the fundamental 50Hz frequency area of Motor #1 (Fig. 3(b)), the  $-2sf_s$  fault signature lies at -58.75 dB (increases 20.57 dB from healthy motor) and the  $-4sf_s$  component lies at -94.59 dB (having increased 1.15 dB with respect to the healthy motor). The same signatures around 50Hz for Motor #2 (Fig. 4(b)) find themselves at



−56.37 dB showing an increase of 22.07 dB ( $-2sf_s$ ), and at −57.34 dB ( $-4sf_s$ ), and increase 31.35 dB compared to the healthy mode. Focusing on the right sidebands of  $+2sf_s$  and  $+4sf_s$ , which are caused by the speed ripple effect [35], these signatures are noticed to have an amplitude of −55.73 dB and −89.96 dB respectively for Motor #1. Using the motor's healthy mode as a baseline, this is an increase of 27.01 dB and 10.64 dB respectively. The speed ripple sidebands of Motor #2 find themselves at −68.25 dB ( $+2sf_s$ ) and at −62.25 dB ( $+4sf_s$ ), which means an increase of 10.11 dB for the  $+2sf_s$  sideband and 17.12 dB for the  $+4sf_s$  compared to the healthy model. This is interesting, since the speed ripple effect, which is weaker on the large motor due to the motor's higher rotor inertia, seems to affect more the small motor (Motor #1) than the large one (Motor #2), which is due to the high rotor moment of inertia of the large motor. As a result, the right fundamental sideband is more reliable in small machines rather in large ones. However the  $+4sf_s$  signature appears to be more sensitive in the large motor.

Another interesting observation, which is addressed from Fig. 3(c) and Fig. 4(c), concerns the saturation related ( $3^{rd}$ ) harmonic and its fault sideband signatures. As it is also shown in Table II, the  $-2sf_s$  and  $-4sf_s$  components of Motor #1 display a difference of 15.61 dB and 18.81 dB respectively from the  $3^{rd}$  harmonic. However, for Motor #2 the  $3^{rd}$  harmonic sideband at  $-2sf_s$  presents a difference of 0.12 dB and the  $-4sf_s$  signature difference holds the value of 2.14 dB from the  $3^{rd}$  harmonic. This is interesting to notice, since the iron core saturation for Motor #2 is lower than the iron core saturation level of Motor #1, as also shown in Fig. 1 (bottom), where the magnetic field distributions are shown for both motors.

Finally, a similar behavior is noticed with regards to the  $5^{th}$  harmonic and the corresponding sidebands. The  $-4sf_s$  signature of Motor #1 shows a difference of 25.54 dB from the 250Hz harmonic, while the sideband component  $-6sf_s$  a 25.75 dB difference. For Motor #2, though, these differences from the main 250Hz harmonic are at 2.88 dB for the  $-4sf_s$  sideband and 9.87 dB for the sideband at  $-6sf_s$ . Similarly with the  $3^{rd}$  harmonic, the sidebands of the  $5^{th}$  are also indicative for the fault, since the small difference from the central harmonic is indicative that the sideband exhibits a larger increase than the corresponding sideband of Motor #1. From the results a conclusion is drawn, that the use of higher stray flux signatures for the detection of broken rotor bars is more reliable and the signatures more sensitive to the fault for the large machine.

## V. CONCLUSION

In this work, two different induction motors of different power sizes, suffering from a broken rotor bar fault, have been studied under 2D-FEM using stray flux signature analysis. The broken bar fault signatures of the radial stray flux were examined for the  $1^{st}$ ,  $3^{rd}$  and  $5^{th}$  harmonics' sidebands, as well as the sidebands of the rotor mechanical speed related component  $f_s - f_r$ . Also, the difference of each sideband from its main central harmonic was given as an indication of the rise each sideband undergoes in amplitude.

The results indicate that the examination of the low frequency component  $f_s - f_r$  and its  $\pm 2sf_s$  and  $\pm 4sf_s$  sidebands perform a similar behavior for both motors and the calculated

differences of amplitudes' increase are relatively close, regardless the dB amplitudes. Also, it is reported that the speed ripple sideband at  $f_s + 4sf_s$  affects more intense the large motor showing a larger increase and small difference from the central harmonic, although the speed ripple effect is weaker for a large motor and although the bar asymmetry is of lower analogy (1 bar out of 70 bars is broken compared to 1 out of 36 in the small motor).

Regarding the  $3^{rd}$  harmonic of each motor, which is a saturation related harmonic, it is compelling that despite the fact that the large motor exhibits lower iron-core saturation level, the difference of the saturation harmonic sidebands can be more reliably indicative for a broken bar asymmetry. Similar behavior with the  $3^{rd}$  harmonic sidebands was observed for the sideband signatures of the  $5^{th}$  harmonic, with only difference that the first left sideband at  $-4sf_s$  and its relative difference show better diagnostic potential than the  $-6sf_s$ .

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